

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Maciej Giertych

on the call for all countries to open their archives pertaining to World War II

Lapse date: 6.6.2006

Written declaration on the call for all countries to open their archives pertaining to World War II

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its resolution on the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8 May 1945, adopted on 12 May 2005,
- A. whereas many governments have yet to declassify secret documents pertaining to the Second World War,
- B. whereas thousands of tonnes of viscous mustard gas and chemical munitions were dumped into the Baltic Sea at the end of World War II and slowly corrode away and will eventually release all their toxic material, ultimately proving disastrous for the environment and region of the Baltic Sea,
- C. whereas, over 60 years after the fact, many European citizens and families of victims still cannot access the full and true account of some of the tragic events of the Second World War, such as the mysterious death of General Sikorski and the Katyń massacre where over 20 000 Polish reserve officers were rounded up and brutally murdered in 1940,
- D. whereas freedom of information is a main tenet of the democratic order,
 - 1. Welcomes decisions by governments that declassify documents and promote public scrutiny;
 - 2. Calls on the Member States and all countries that have still not opened their archives pertaining to World War II to do so without delay, especially those which might be time sensitive in nature, such as those that can prevent environmental disasters;
 - 3. Deplores the construction of the NEGP Russia-Germany gas pipeline, in the light of the environmental risks involved, including the unstable situation of the chemical munitions deposited in the depths of the Baltic Sea;
 - 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America.